

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following headings and paragraph at page 1, after the title:

PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/CH2003/000387, filed on June 16, 2003. Priority is claimed on that application and on the following application:

Country: Switzerland, Application No. 1109/02, Filed: June 27, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 2, line 25 to amended page 2, line 33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object is achieved by ~~the characterizing features of claim 1. Since the a packaging system having a positioning device that~~ is assigned a transfer device which can produce a web-loop arrangement of predetermined magnitude and which allows the web-loop arrangement produced to be transferred directly or indirectly into a packaging container~~[], a~~. A memory-programmable control device controlling components of the system~~[],~~ allows at least partial automation of the operating sequences ~~is made possible~~.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at amended page 2, line 35 to amended page 2, line 36.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 3, line 1 to amended page 3, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~A refinement of the system as claimed in claim 2 A further embodiment of the invention is particularly advantageous, with the result in that the positioning and packaging operation can be carried out fully automatically without any need for an operator. The packing density can be~~

improved by a refinement of the system as claimed in claim 3 in which the length of the web loops can be adjusted to a different magnitude from one web-loop to the next at the control device since, then, the region of greatest stressing, which is provided by the folds of the loops, is not restricted to the border region of the web-loop arrangement; rather, adjacent folds may be offset in relation to one another, this achieving a significant dissipation of the stressing at the border and allowing closer packing of the web loops. A significant improvement in the packing is achieved by the refinement as claimed in claim 4 making it possible to adjust the length of the web for each web-loop arrangement at the control device since the length of the web per pack can be distributed uniformly over the web-loop arrangements and the individual web-loop arrangements thus also each have a uniform density. The web which is packaged in this way thus has constant properties over its entire length, such as uniform stressing throughout the arrangement, which, on the one hand, allows better utilization of the packaging container and, on the other hand, ensures uniform properties of the web, in particular for the subsequent further processing thereof. Elastic webs in particular can shrink together uniformly in the packaging container. The elasticity of the web is thus maintained uniformly over the entire length thereof since residual stressing in certain sections, which could result in material fatigue and a loss in elasticity, is avoided. A high-quality final product is thus made possible, all this with reduced manpower and increased performance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 3, line 34 to amended page 4, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The web positioned in loops has the tendency to straighten out in the folding region, as a result of which considerable forces occur in the web-loop arrangement, in particular in the folding region of the web loops, and these counteract an ordered web-loop arrangement. An advantageous configuration of the system is thus one as claimed in claim 5, according to which the positioning device has, in the positioning region, a pressure-exerting bar which runs over the entire loop length, can be advanced perpendicularly to the bearing panel for the web-loop arrangement, can be pressed against the edges of the web loops and prevents the loops from opening up. The

pressure-exerting bar is preferably provided with a controlled drive in order for this pressure-exerting bar to be raised up during transfer of the web-loop arrangement, and thus for the transfer to be facilitated.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 4, line 15 to amended page 5, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A system ~~as claimed in claim 7~~ is particularly expedient, in which case the transfer device has preferably finger-like pusher members on the infeed side of the web in the positioning device, it being possible for these pusher members to be displaced out of a rest position, in which the web feed is not impeded, into an operating position, in which these pusher members can be moved through beneath the pressure-exerting bar, parallel to the bearing panel of the web-loop arrangement, to be precise until, on the other side of the pressure-exerting bar, carry-along elements can be moved in between or behind the web-loop arrangements from a rest position in order to receive the web-loop arrangement and displace it into a receiving device transversely to the loop arrangement. The pusher members can be moved into the operating position from different positions, for example from a rest position beneath, to the side of or behind the bearing panel. A particularly preferred refinement, however, is ~~[[the]] one as claimed in claim 8~~; in which the pusher members are moved vertically downward into the operating position from a raised rest position above the bearing panel. The same applies to the carry-along elements behind the pressure-exerting bar, it likewise being possible for these carry-along elements to assume a wide variety of different rest positions to the side of and beneath the bearing panel. A particularly preferred refinement here is ~~[[the]] one as claimed in claim 9~~; in which the carry-along elements are of finger-like design and can be moved in between the pusher members in the vertically downward direction from a top rest position. The web-loop arrangement is thus constantly controlled, either by the pusher members or by the carry-along fingers, throughout the transfer movement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 5, line 16 to amended page 5, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Also conceivable, however, is a simplified solution ~~as claimed in claim 6~~; in which, rather than the pusher members being moved through beneath the pressure-exerting bar, the web-positioning operation takes place continuously and the web-loop arrangements are transported further downstream of the positioning device by means of blades arranged on a displacement bar. For this purpose, it is possible for the blades, in the first instance butting against one another, to be moved in between two web loops from above and then moved apart from one another laterally in order to separate two web loops and to transfer the web-loop arrangement located in front of them. In the case of this solution, the web-positioning operation need not be interrupted, as a result of which the productivity increases. However, this variant can only be used to process a very small number of straightforward and non-critical webs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 5, line 33 to amended page 6, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is advantageous here if the system ~~as claimed in claim 10~~ is designed such that the bearing panel for the web-loop arrangement has braking strips along the displacement path of the folds, from the positioning device into the receiving device. Ordered transfer is also aided by ~~[[the]]~~ a refinement ~~as claimed in claim 11~~, according to which guide bars which guide the web-loop arrangement and are oriented transversely to the loop arrangement are arranged above the bearing panel. According to ~~claim 13 another embodiment~~, at least one resiliently yielding stop member may be arranged in the receiving device, in the region between the folds, in order for web parts which curve forward in the receiving direction to be forced back, that is to say oriented, parallel to the loop arrangement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 6, line 12 to amended page 6, line 33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A packaging container may already be arranged in the receiving device in order to accommodate the web-loop arrangement. A more advantageous refinement, however, is one ~~as claimed in claim 13~~, according to which a stacking device for the web-loop arrangements is arranged in the receiving device. It is thus possible for a plurality of web-loop arrangements located one above the other to be formed into a stack. According to ~~claim 14 a further embodiment~~, the stacking device contains a rear wall, which serves as a stop for the web-loop arrangement which is to be received, a base, which can be lowered to the thickness of the web-loop arrangement, and a cover, which can be adjusted in relation to the base and serves at least as a top guide for a web-loop arrangement which is to be transferred. According to ~~claim 15 still another embodiment~~, the cover serves as a top boundary of the stack and can additionally be displaced parallel with the base. The stacking of the web-loop arrangements is facilitated if, according to ~~claim 16 an additional embodiment~~, the receiving device contains a retractable accommodating base which is preferably formed from two base halves which can be retracted in opposite directions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 6, line 35 to amended page 7, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The stacking device of the system, ~~as claimed in claim 17~~, can advantageously be lowered into a packing station in which the web-loop stack can be ejected out of the stacking device, by means of an ejecting ram, into an associated packaging container. ~~A particularly suitable packaging container is specified in claim 18. The In another embodiment, the packaging container contains~~ a base with three side walls integrally formed on it and, on the fourth side, a side-wall part which can be swung downward, with the result that the web-loop stack can be pushed onto the base of the packaging container on this fourth side. The side-wall part can be swung upward in order to cover the fourth side of the filled packaging container. A cover is articulated on the side wall

which is located opposite the fourth side, this cover having a wall part which at least largely covers the fourth side, this also ensuring that the pack is closed off satisfactorily on the fourth side.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 36 to page 8, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Ways of Implementing the Invention DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figures 1 and 2 show a positioning device 1 which is known from EP 0 778 236 A and EP 0 062 753 B and by means of which a flexible, in particular also an elastically expandable, web 2 can be folded into zigzag-form loops 2a located one behind the other in group form, that is to say a web-loop arrangement 3 can be formed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 4 to page 11, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The pressure-exerting bar 12 is fastened, at both ends, on vertical supports 18 which can be displaced up and down by means of piston/cylinder subassemblies 20 and spindles 22. The piston/cylinder subassemblies 20 ~~serves~~ serve for periodically raising up the pressure-exerting bar 12 during transfer of a web-loop arrangement 3 from the positioning device 1 into a receiving device 24, as can be gathered from Figure 3. An adjusting device 25 serves for adjusting the magnitude of the contact-pressure force to which the web loops are subjected by the pressure-exerting bar 12. The adjusting device 25 has a stepping motor 25a which interacts via a gear mechanism 25b, for example a chain gear or toothed belt mechanism, with the spindle 22, which is connected to the supports 18 via a thread, with the result that it is possible to change the spacing of the supports 18 in relation to the piston/cylinder subassemblies 20 and thus the degree to which the pressure-exerting bar 12 presses on the web loop.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 3 to 6 deal with a system for packaging web-loop arrangements which are produced in the positioning device 1 and are transferred to the receiving device 24 for packaging purposes. The transfer device 26 has finger-like pusher members 28 on the infeed side of the web 2 in the positioning device 1, it being possible for these pusher members to be lowered from a raised rest position into an operating position, which is illustrated in Figure 3 and in which they are located parallel to the bearing panel of the web-loop arrangement. The finger-like pusher members 28 are fastened on an extension arm 30 which can be displaced on a vertical guide 34, by means of a slide 32, out of the operating position illustrated into a vertically raised rest position, in which it does not obstruct the operation of feeding the web 2 in the positioning device 1. For displacement in the vertical direction, use is made, for example, of a piston/cylinder subassembly 36, of which the piston rod 38 is connected to the extension arm 30. A piston/cylinder subassembly 40 serves for displacing the pusher members 28 beneath the pressure-exerting bar 12, for which purpose a slide 39, which can be displaced along a rail 41, is arranged on the vertical guide 34. The web-loop arrangement 3 is thus advanced in the direction of the receiving device 24. In the advanced position, the transfer device 26 has vertically oriented carry-along fingers 42 which can be lowered from the rest position, which is illustrated in Figure 3, toward the bearing panel 4 and, there, can be moved in between the pusher members 28 in order to receive the web-loop arrangement and displace it into the receiving device 24 transversely to the loop arrangement. The carry-along fingers 42 are fastened, in a manner analogous to the pusher members 28, on an extension arm 44 which can be displaced on a vertical guide 48 by means of a slide 46. A piston/cylinder subassembly 50 is connected to the extension arm 44 by means of a piston rod 52 and serves for displacing the carry-along fingers 42 vertically out of the rest position into the operating position. A piston/cylinder subassembly 54 serves for displacing the vertical guide 48, which has a slide 55, along the horizontal rail 41.

Please delete page 18 in its entirety.

Please delete page 19 it its entirety.